ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for transmitting unscheduled flow control, in packet form, between two chips are described. In one embodiment, a method includes reading a status of a buffer used to receive network packets transmitted from a different chip. The method further includes transmitting to said different chip an unscheduled flow control packet including information about the status of the buffer.

In an embodiment, a chip includes a packet buffer to store network packets transmitted from a different chip, wherein the packet buffer is associated with one or more of a plurality of ports through which the network packets travel. The chip also includes control circuitry, coupled with a packet data bus to receive said network packets from the different chip, and coupled with an unscheduled flow control packet bus to generate and transmit unscheduled flow control packets to the different chip, wherein the unscheduled flow control packets contain information relating to the packet buffer.